



**BRIEFING: DECEMBER 2012, BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #2**

**TO:** Chairman Richard and Board Members

**FROM:** Ben Tripousis, Northern Regional Director

**DATE:** November 28, 2012

**RE:** Peninsula Corridor JPB/CHSRA MOU Update

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**Background**

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) and the CHSRA are in a partnership to share the peninsula rail corridor to provide commuter and high-speed rail services. The existing 2004 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and 2009 Agreement and Amendment to the agreement are outdated. A new/updated agreement is needed to reflect current policies defined in the 2012 CHSRA Business Plan, the 2012 9-party MOU the HSR Early Investment Strategy for a Blended System in the Peninsula Corridor and the terms of SB 1029 enacted in July 2012. The purpose of the new/updated agreement is to define a new partnership for planning, environmental review, design and construction of a blended system in the peninsula rail corridor.

**Discussion**

The blended system is comprised of several interrelated capital projects. The early investment projects include the Caltrain Electrification Infrastructure and advanced signal system projects (commonly known as CBOSS which includes Positive Train Control (PTC). The remaining additive inter-related capital projects include the San Francisco Downtown Extension (DTX) project, San Jose Diridon Station, Millbrae BART/Caltrain Station and Core Capacity upgrades to stations, tunnels, bridges, passing tracks (to be determined) and other track modifications and rail crossing improvements including grade separations (to be determined).

The MOU is specific to project investments that upgrade existing rail service and prepare for a future high-speed train project that is limited to infrastructure necessary to support a blended system, which will primarily be a two-track system shared by both Caltrain and high-speed rail as well as other passenger and freight services.

The following principles, consistent with and/or included in the referenced documents above are being considered for inclusion in the new/updated CHSRA and JPB agreement.

The blended system will:

- Primarily utilize existing tracks;
- Remain substantially within the existing JPB right-of-way;
- Be used by Caltrain, CHSRA, other passenger and freight services; and
- Meet both CHSRA and Caltrain operational requirements.

The JPB as the owner of the rail corridor will:

- Implement the early investment projects defined in the 2012 9-party MOU;
- Update the Caltrain Electrification EA/FEIR completed in 2009;
- Lead and complete the advanced signal system by 2015 and electrification by 2019; and
- Implement the projects in a way that respects community partners and stakeholders.

The CHSRA as an investor and tenant in the rail corridor will:

- Incorporate the early investment projects into its next business plan update;
- Release \$705M of Prop 1A funding for the early investment projects; and
- Serve as the lead agency for subsequent environmental clearance of additive improvements in the peninsula corridor to support a blended system.

Both the JPB and the CHSRA will:

- Develop an organizational framework to deliver the early investment projects and continue planning for a blended system; and
- Continue the negotiated cost sharing arrangement to administer and manage delivery of the early investment projects and plan for the blended system.

### **Recommendations**

Staff will seek input from the corridor city/county partners as well as the 9-party MOU signatories on the update of the existing JPB/CHSRA MOU and Agreement. Much of the input gathered from development of the 9-party MOU is relevant and will be considered in developing the new/updated JPB/CHSRA MOU.

Additional input will be gathered at city council and other policymaker committee meetings. Key venues for dialogue will be at the Caltrain Modernization Local Policy Maker Group meeting to be scheduled for mid-December, and the next City/County Stakeholder Coordination meeting to be held at the end of December.

Staff will return to the board in the January/February timeframe requesting approval of the new/updated JPB/CHSRA MOU.

This report is for information only. No Board action is required.